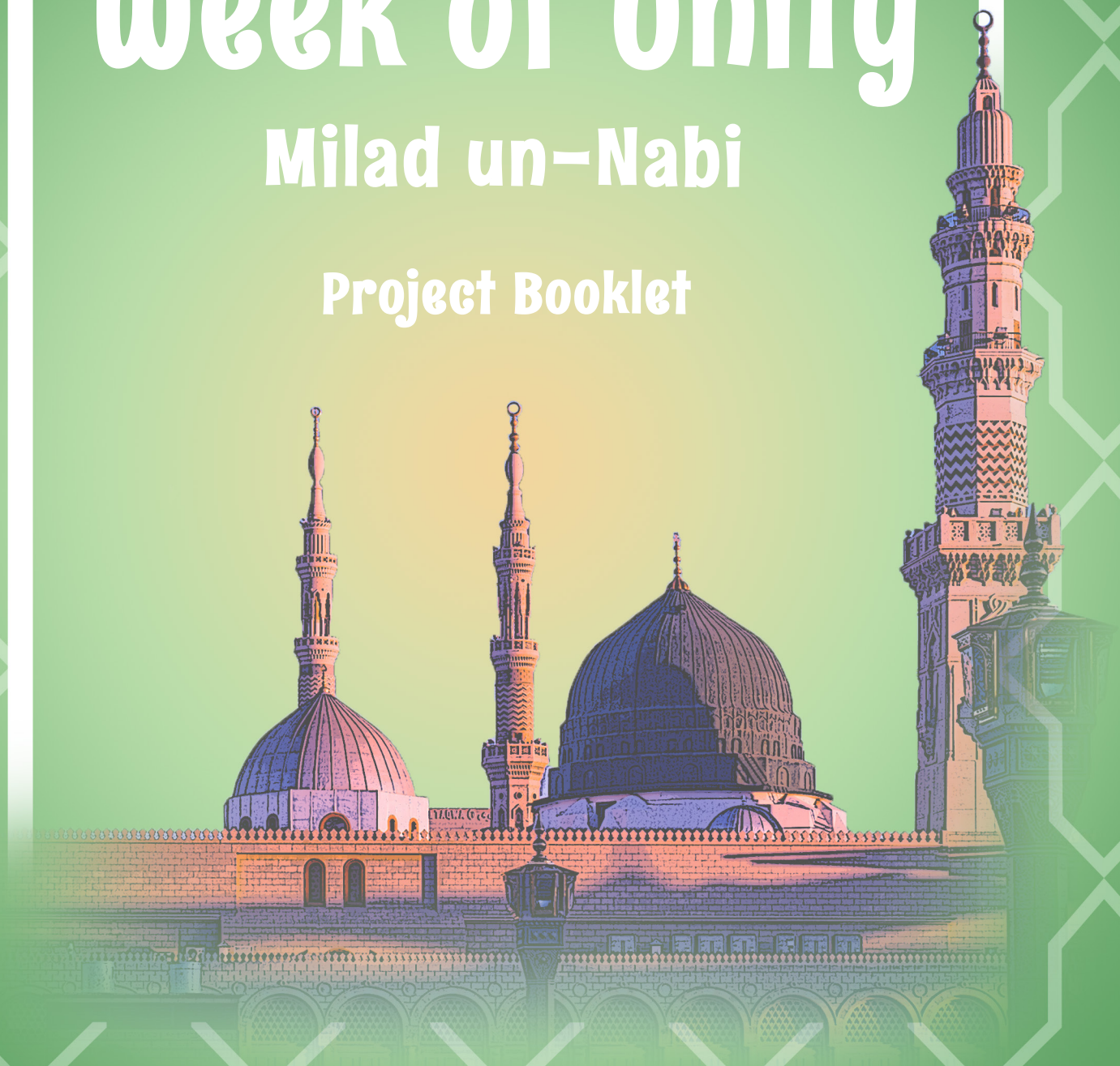
Book 2

Week of Unity

Milad un-Nabi

Project Booklet



Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for
the sponsors of this project booklet.

Important dates in Rabīʿ al-Awwal

1st	Migration of the Noble Prophet (ṣ) from Mecca to Medina
8th	Shahādah of Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa)
9th	Eid az-Zahrāʾ; Imāmah of 12th Imām (ʿaj) begins
10th	Marriage anniversary of Noble Prophet (ṣ) and Ḥaḍrat Khadījah
12th	Wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) (by some traditions)
12-17th	Week of Unity
15th	Masjid al-Qūbaʾ, the first Islamic mosque, is constructed
17th	Wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) and Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa)
24th	Wilādah of Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) (by some traditions)

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Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marhumin of those
who contributed to this booklet.

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

al-islam.org
Tales of the Last Messenger

Primary Theme Park: “Earth Lift-the-Flap Printable Template”
Kriz N Lynn : Through Our Eyes!!
The Creative Cubby: “Egg Carton Bird Feeder”
Once Upon A Learning Adventure: “Space Case! And a 100TH Day Sneak!”

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بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

Salāmun ʿalaykum,

May Allah bless us, our families, and our communities. My tabrīkāt, taḥiyyāt, best wishes and congratulations to the Imām of our time, Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj), our great marājiʿ and scholars, and to the Muslim ummah on the wilādah of the best human being created on earth, the hope and mercy of the worlds, the perfect example and role model for mankind, our Noble Prophet of Islam, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), and on the wilādah of our sixth Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa).

Imagine if someone who knows your father, such as a neighbor, a business partner, or a friend, comes to you and says "I know your father and I admire him. I want to organize a birthday celebration for him." Maybe they knew your father and want to hold a special memorial for him. How would that make you feel? This connection they have with your father will give you energy, happiness, and passion that is unimaginable.

Today we are celebrating one Prophet whom we are all connected to. The Noble Prophet (ṣ) has said that he and ʿAlī are the fathers of the Muslim ummah! Today, when I talk about the Noble Prophet of Islam (ṣ) or Imām ʿAlī (ʿa), I am talking about our role models, our uswas, our heroes. They connect us and make us happy and unified. Our pride is in Islam and being Muslim. In Islam, there is no Arab and non-Arab, there is no black and white, there is no male and female, there are no tribes; there is only taqwā (God-consciousness), and taqwā is not something we judge or measure—only Allah can.

To the educators: Alḥamdulillāh you are the ones who cultivate the seeds of knowledge and love into the hearts and minds of our children. It is your duty to cultivate the seed of unity in the hearts and minds of our children. We want to have a working relationship so that we can benefit from one another and live in peace and harmony. If we want to accommodate each other, it can truly happen with our next generation, and you are the source of knowledge and education for our next generation.

To the parents: As parents, we face many challenges, and our challenges are not about Shīʿah and Sunni. We are living in a very different time, in some areas a very dangerous time. Our children are becoming atheists, joining the lgbt, falling into depression, there are whispers about suicide, drugs, etc. We need to be smart and unite to tackle these problems.

To the management of our centers and masājid: You are like the Islamic embassies in this part of the world. You are the ambassadors of spreading and inviting people to Islam. I urge you to accommodate and welcome all people, to invite speakers of different faiths, and visit other centers. Before we can talk and have good interfaith programs we have to have strong united intrafaith programs!

To my dear respected scholars: There are extreme facts in history in both the Shīʿahs and Sunnis, but we are not talking about those areas. We need to focus on the area in history that shows our great unity. We need to promote those areas of history. The Muslim Ummah is on one ship. If someone makes a hole in this ship, we will all drown. It doesn't matter who makes the hole, the ship will sink regardless. As scholars, when we use the pulpit, minbar, or podium, it is our duty to educate people on the common points of history and how we were together and can be united and work together. It is okay to talk about our own fiqh, but we have to be aware not to put other views and fiqh down, or create a negative impression of people with different views. We can agree to disagree here, but respectfully.

To my dear youth and children: You are the pioneers of our communities. You are the ones who will hold the torch of Islam and take us to the next level. You need to be at the forefront, organizing, participating, and supporting this unity and these types of programs.

Lastly to you, the ummah: You are the ummah, a nation of people united by their beliefs. You are the future, and the ones who motivate and inspire us. We work for you. Everything we are doing is for you. You need to be vigilant and demand the centers, masājid, scholars, and educators to create the platform of unity. You are our compass, you need to guide us.

In honor of the wilādah of our Noble Prophet (ṣ), we are pleased to launch the Week of Unity Project Booklet. This booklet includes four lesson plans that have been put together in collaboration with scholars and educators. We pray these projects will assist in planting the love of our Noble Prophet (ṣ) and his Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) in our children and serving the oppressed of the world through prayer and good deeds. By following the right role models and serving Allah's creatures all around the earth, inshāʾAllāh we become closer to Him.

Our humble request is to create a two-way connection by all of us sharing our expertise and experiences and avoiding duplicated work, in order to maximize our potential. Please share your ideas, experiences, and successes with us, so that together, we can all move forward and build a global network. You may send any questions, suggestions, or feedback at info@kisakids.org, and inshāʾAllāh together we can build the foundation for Islamic education.

We pray that Allah gives us the tawfīq to actualize our duties and responsibilities.

JazākAllāh and Best Wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

Stronger Together

Objective: Children will learn about the importance of unity in Islam and the concept of one ummah.

Islam teaches us to love our fellow brothers and sisters in Islam regardless of which sect they are following. One of the important aspects of Islam is indeed unity, meaning that as Muslims we all stand together and support eachother, especially when it comes to justice. The Noble Prophet (ṣ) taught us that regardless of who we are and where we come from, the love and respect between the believers is what matters. The Noble Prophet (ṣ) has said: "The likeness of the believers in their mutual love, affection and compassion for one another is as one body. If a single limb ails then the rest of the body suffers from fever and sleeplessness."[1]

What does this mean? Think about how someone feels if they broke a bone, or got hurt on their leg or arm. Due to that injury, they might have aches and pains elsewhere, or struggle to do basic things, like walk or pick something up. Similarly, the believers, as described by the Noble Prophet (ṣ), are like a body, so when one part of the body is suffering or needs help, the rest of the body can feel it. So when we see fellow believers in need or who may need guidance, we can try our best to help them however we can. Today, we are going to do an activity that will remind us that we are all believers.

1 Mizān al-Ḥikmah, Ḥadīth #1141

Earth Unity Map

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Earth Template
- Blank paper
- Colored pencils/crayons
- Scissors
- Glue

Procedure:

1. Color the earth template.
2. Cut out the earth.
3. Carefully cut along the dotted lines to create four flaps. You can do this by lightly folding the earth in half and cutting along the dotted lines. Be sure to not cut past the dotted lines.
4. Glue the outside edges of the earth to the blank paper. The flaps should lift up.
5. On the inside of the four flaps, draw a picture that shows what you have learned about unity today.

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The Year of the Elephant

Objective: Children will learn about the Noble Prophet's birth and the story of Sūrah al-Fīl.

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) was born on the 17th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal in Amul Fīl or the Year of the Elephant. The year of the elephant is mentioned in Sūrah al-Fīl.

Once, Abū Ṭālib (ʿa) asked Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), "Have you been chosen by God to call everyone to your religion, or to call your own people only?" The Noble Prophet (ṣ) replied, "I have chosen to call all human beings to the religion, from the white and the black, the Arab and the non-Arab; I call all people who are on mountains and in the seas to this religion; I call the whole Persia and Rome." When the Quraysh heard this, they were surprised. They asked Abū Ṭālib (ʿa), "Do you not listen to what your nephew says? We swear to god that if people of Persia and Rome hear these remarks, we will be stolen from our lands and the stones of the Kaʿbah will be disassembled." It was then that Allah revealed Sūrah al-Fīl to the Noble Prophet (ṣ).[1]

Sūrah al-Fīl talks about the story of Abraha and his army of elephants. They moved towards Mecca to destroy the Holy Kaʿbah, but Allah sent a flock of birds to throw stones at them. From this sūrah, we can see that even the little can be mighty in the path of Allah. The Noble Prophet (ṣ) was sent in an era of darkness, when he had only a few supporters and the ills of society were many, but the message of Islam was still spread far and wide. His birth signified the beginning of an era of light, and we celebrate this as the end of the darkness of ignorance.

1 An Enlightening Commentary into the Light of the Holy Qur'an, Vol. 20

Light of Muḥammad (ṣ)

Suggested Ages: 5+

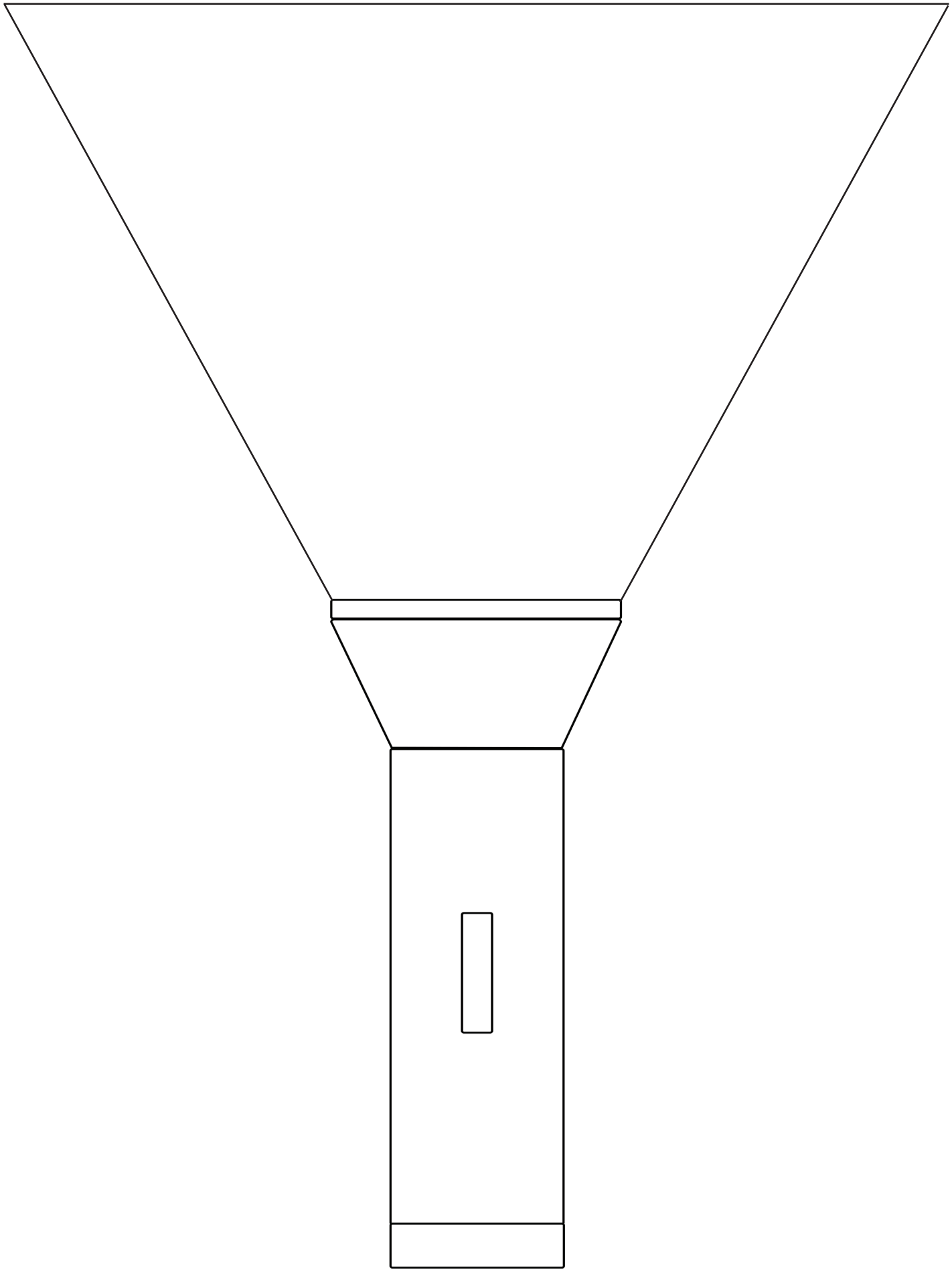
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Flashlight template
- Markers (Sharpies)
- Colored pencils
- Black construction paper
- Gallon size Ziploc bag
- Scissors

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the flashlight however you like. Leave the white triangle space blank. This will be the "light."
2. Cut out the flashlight by cutting all along the outer lines.
3. Using the markers, draw a picture on one side of the Ziploc bag. Make sure the opening of the bag is at the bottom.
4. Carefully put the black paper flat inside the Ziploc bag.
5. Now, take the flashlight and put it in the Ziploc bag over the black paper. You can leave the handle part out and move it around. You should be able to see your drawing on the Ziploc bag wherever the "light" is shining.
6. To see how to make this craft, check out this video by Kriz N Lynn: Through Our Eyes



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An Excellent Role Model

Objective: Children will learn about an excellent role model, as defined by the Noble Qurʾān.

It is human nature to look up to people around us and base our decision upon their teachings and advice. These people whom we look up to are called role models. This could be our parents, teachers, sisters, or brothers. Islam teaches us the importance of role models and their effects on our lives. Allah tells us in the Noble Qurʾān, "Indeed there is for you an apostle from Allah, an excellent role model."[1] From this, we can see that the best role model for us is Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ).

Alḥamdulillāh, as the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), we have the most blessed of role models. Through their teachings, we know what things are important and how to act in our daily lives. One lesson we learn from them is kindness and compassion towards others. The Noble Prophet (ṣ) taught his companions that giving water to the thirsty, even animals, is an action that Allah will reward.

Once, the Noble Prophet (ṣ) was in his yard holding a bowl of water, ready to perform wuḍūʾ, when a thirsty kitten wandered in. The kitten's gaze immediately fell upon the bowl in his hands, and her eyes lit up. One look at the little kitten made it clear to the Noble Prophet (ṣ) that she was thirsty and tired. He felt sorry for the kitten, and knew he had to help. Without hesitating, he bent down and placed the water bowl directly in front of the kitten. The kitten meowed with happiness, quickly walked toward the bowl, and lapped the water up quickly and happily. She looked at the Noble Prophet (ṣ) with immense gratitude, and the Noble Prophet (ṣ) smiled down at her. Truly, the Noble Prophet (ṣ) was sent as a mercy to all of Allah's creations, both humans and animals!

1 Noble Qurʾān, 33:2

Bird Feeder Craft

Suggested Age: 5+

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Egg carton
- Markers
- Scissors
- Yarn

Procedure:

1. Cut off the lid of the egg carton.
2. Color and decorate the egg carton however you like.
3. Carefully poke 4 holes on each corner of the egg carton.
4. Cut 2 pieces of yarn.
5. Thread the yarn through the holes diagonally and tie on each end.
6. Hang the bird feeder outside and put some bird food in it.
7. Craft inspired by: The Creative Cubby

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The Science Whiz

Objective: Children will learn about the role Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) played in scientific advancement.

On the 17th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal, we also celebrate the wilādah of our sixth Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa). Like his father, he had the opportunity to teach many people on not just religious topics, but also on topics of science. He taught scientific theories such as the 4 elements and the origin of the universe.

One example of this is when Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) told people about the true rotation of the sun and the planets. Aristotle, a great Greek philosopher and thinker, believed that the planet was stationary, meaning that it doesn't move, and the sun and stars rotate around it. His theories kept people in the dark for almost 1800 years! When he was just 11 years old, Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) proved the theory that indeed the Earth rotates around its own axis, and that it orbits around the Sun. Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) was a science whiz![1]

This shows us that the Imāms were knowledgeable in worldly and religious subjects, and also the importance of gaining knowledge. Because of modern science discoveries, we know that what the Imām (ʿa) said about the rotation of the planets was true. We now know that the Earth and the other planets orbit around the Sun, and that the Earth spins on its axis. Today, we are going to make a craft that shows this, and remind ourselves to always be in search of knowledge.

1 Imam Jafar al-Sadiq's (a) Contribution to the Sciences

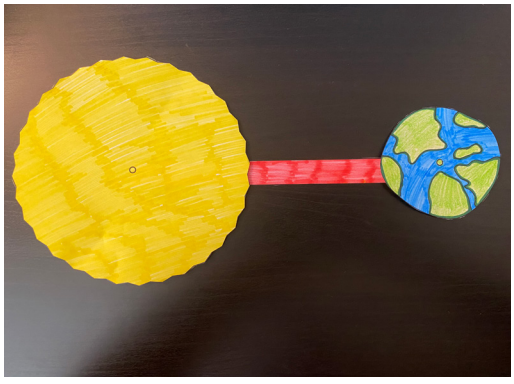
Rotating Around the Sun

Suggested Age: 5+

Time: 30 minutes

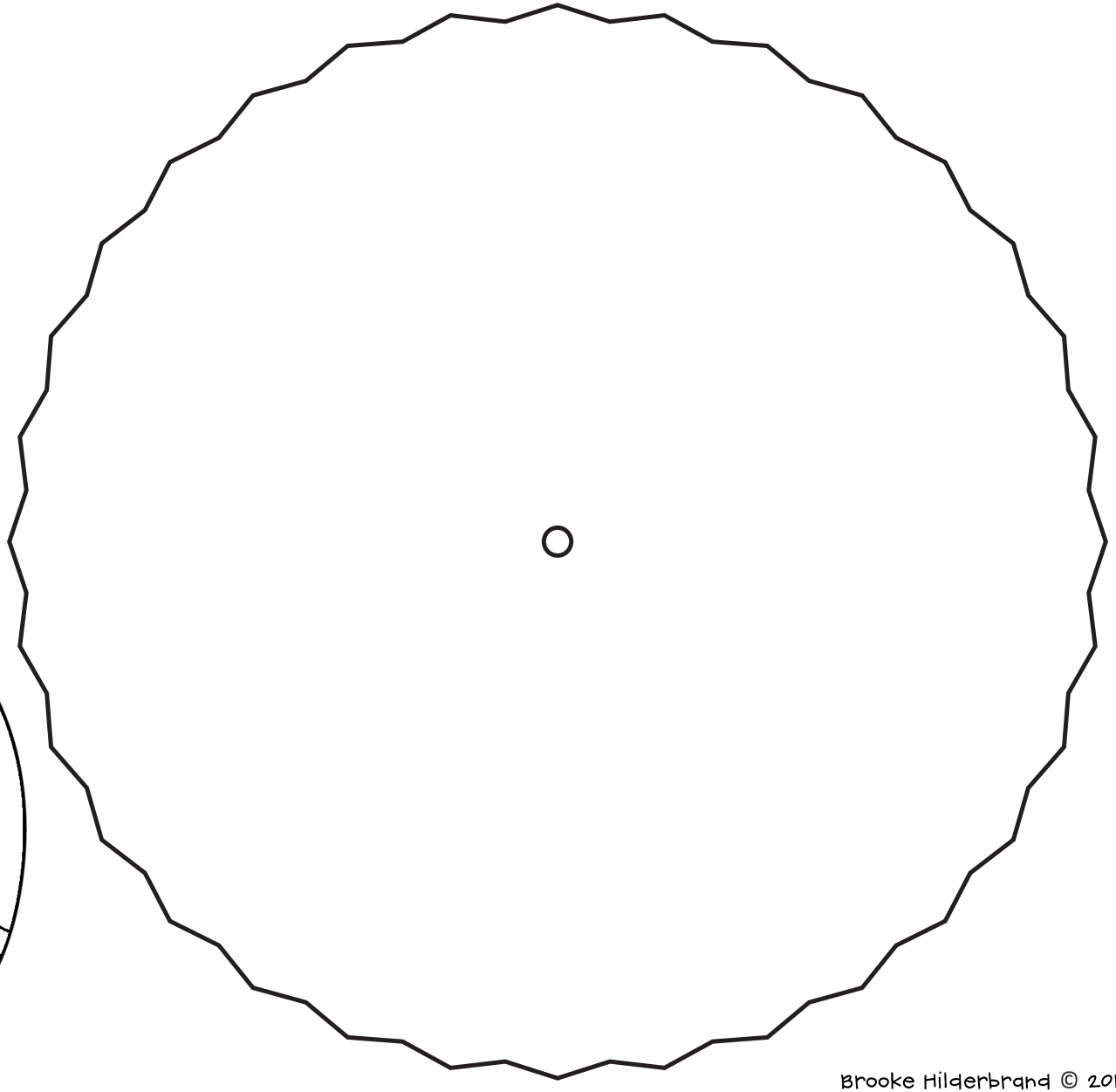
Materials:

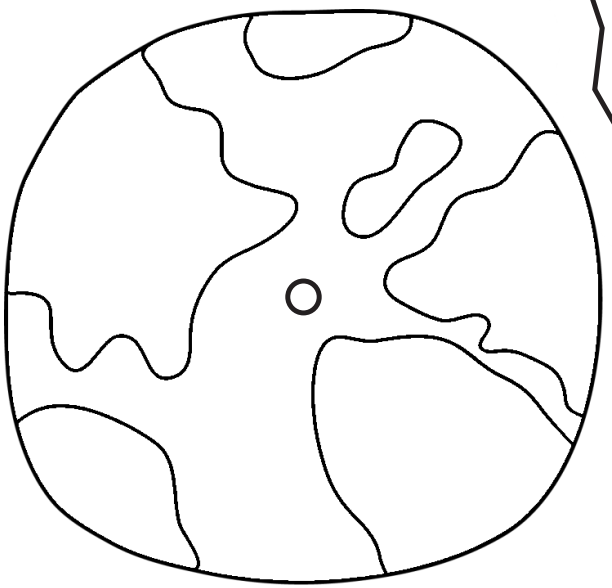
- Earth and Sun template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Brads/paper fastener



Procedure:

1. Color the images of the sun and earth.
2. Cut out all of the pieces of the template, including the rectangle shape.
3. Carefully poke a hole in the center of the sun and earth where there is a small circle. Do the same for the 2 small circles on either end of the rectangle.
4. Put one end of the rectangle under the sun and line up the holes. Poke the brad through and fold each end to connect them.
5. Do the same on the other end with the earth.
6. Craft inspired by: Once Upon a Learning Adventure





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